



16 March — 1 May 1983

## REFLECTIONS OF REALITY IN JAPANESE ART

The Cleveland Museum of Art  
11150 East Boulevard  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106  
216 421-7340

Advance Fact Sheet

For release on receipt  
September 16, 1982

Exhibition: REFLECTIONS OF REALITY IN JAPANESE ART

Dates: March 16-May 1, 1983

Description: This is the first exhibition to focus on the realist tradition in Japanese art. It presents the bold, frank, and pragmatic record that Japanese artists have made of the people and places important to them and of their amusement, not always sympathetic, at human foibles. The exhibition comprises about 125 rare and significant paintings and sculptures from the United States and Japan, including nine National Treasures and more than fifty Important Cultural Properties from the major temples, shrines, museums, and private collections of Japan.

REFLECTIONS OF REALITY is a companion and counterpoint to a 1961 exhibition, Japanese Decorative Style. These two modes, the decorative and the realistic, constitute a dualism that is an outstanding characteristic of Japanese culture which has been little studied in Japanese art. The exhibition will be shown only at The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Organizer: Sherman E. Lee, director and chief curator of Oriental art at The Cleveland Museum of Art for twenty-five years, sums up a lifetime of studying Japanese art and culture in this exhibition, which he has been planning since his earlier exhibition on Japanese Decorative Style. With the generous cooperation and support of the Agency of Cultural Affairs (Bunka-cho) in Japan and the Japan Foundation, Dr. Lee has selected choice works for this show, his final exhibition before he retires in July 1983.

Contents: Works of art in the exhibition range from a few early representational ceramic wares to late nineteenth-century paintings. All illuminate Dr. Lee's conviction that Japanese realism is unique, an old and abiding tradition in Japanese art.

Among the paintings designated National Treasures are two landmarks in the development of the narrative handscroll, one of the Choju-giga scrolls of the Kamakura Period (1185-1333) and the Kokawa-dera Engi, dated about 1180. Another National Treasure is one roll of the Ippen Shōnin Eden, dated 1299, a record of the life of the itinerant priest Ippen.

Of the wooden sculpture and masks in the exhibition, the portrait sculptures constitute the most significant group ever to come to the United States. Chief among them are those of Hojo-Tokaiyori, the famous military regent in Kamakura; Butsuzenji, abbot of Tofuku-ji, Kyoto; Priest Kuya, early evangelist of popular Buddhism; and Priest Chogen, who in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries traveled throughout Japan to raise funds to rebuild the venerated Todai-ji after it was destroyed by fire. Six important Gigaku and Bugaku masks are included in the exhibition.

Lenders:

Exhibition lenders include Tokyo National Museum, Kyoto National Museum, Nara National Museum, Idemitsu Museum, Fukuoka Museum, and Atami Museum, and important temples and shrines in Japan, among them Kokawa-dera, Wakayama; Kozan-ji, one of medieval Buddhism's centers, and Daihoon-ji, Kyoto; Chion-in, Kyoto, the headquarters and main temple of the Jodo sect of Buddhism; Todai-ji and Toshodai-ji, Nara. A few significant works from the Art Institute of Chicago, the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the collection of John and Kimiko Powers, will be included, with some twenty works from The Cleveland Museum of Art, which has one of the finest collections of Japanese art outside Japan.

Catalogue:

Every object in the exhibition will be reproduced, in whole or in part, in the 350-page catalogue. It includes 16 color plates, 170 black and white photographs, a glossary, and a bibliography. The text is by Sherman E. Lee, catalog entries by Michael Cunningham. The cloth-bound book (SBN 0910386-70-6, 7½ x 10 inches) is published by The Cleveland Museum of Art and will be distributed by Indiana University Press.

Hours:

Regular Museum hours will be observed: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 to 6; Wednesday, 10 to 10; Saturday, 9 to 5; Sunday, 1 to 6. The Museum is closed on Mondays.



Lectures and Programs: Throughout the six weeks of the exhibition, the Museum will present free lectures, gallery talks, musical performances, workshops for teachers, an educational exhibition of Japanese prints, and a series of major Japanese realist films.

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For additional information, photographs, color transparencies, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.